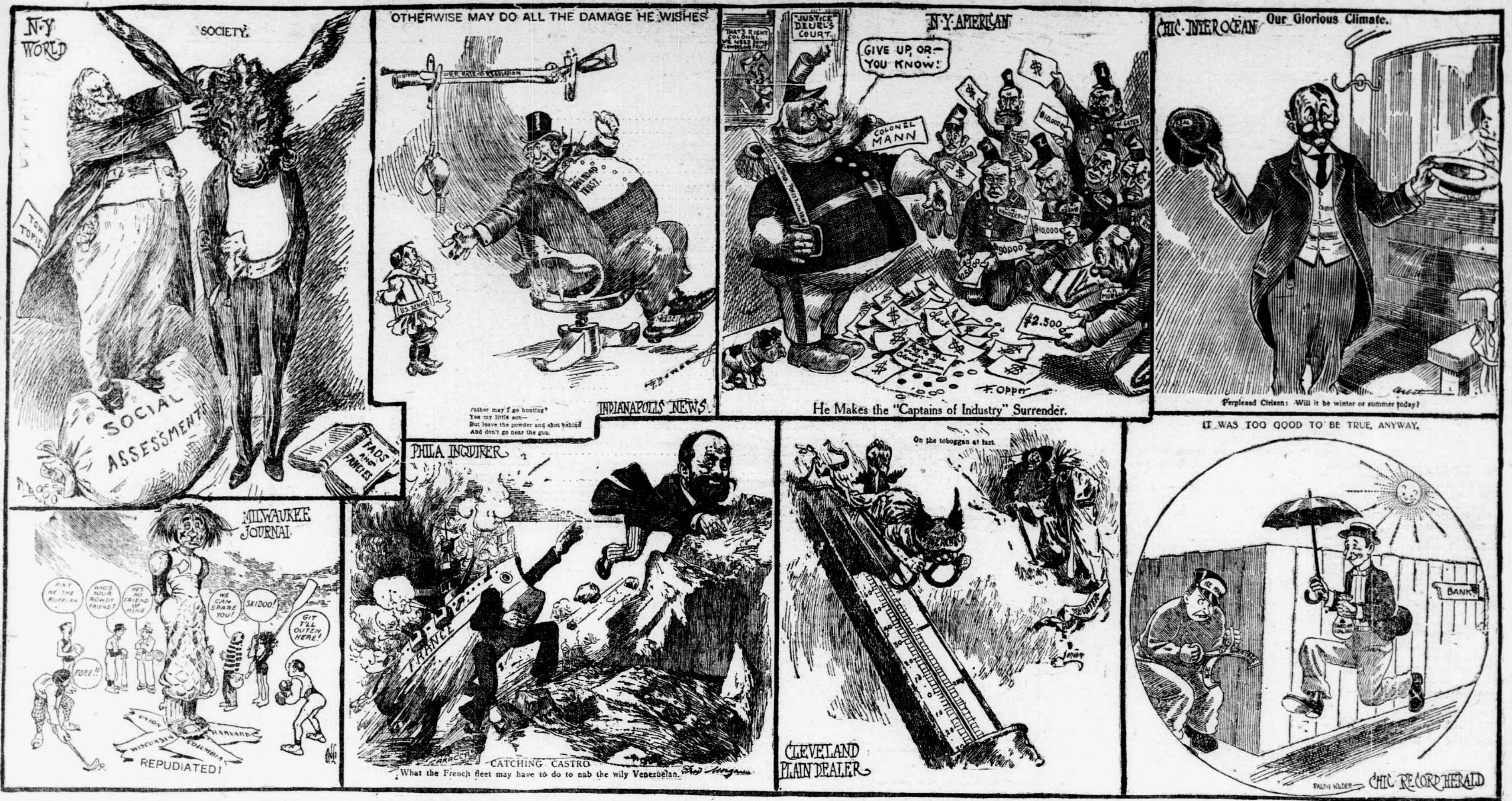


As the CARTOONISTS SEE THE NEWS



OLD DAYS OF BASE BALL

Ted Sullivan Recalls the Nationals of 1867.

BY TED SULLIVAN.

The old Nationals of Washington were the best ball players of the national game in the west. They were all nearly clerks in government employ at Washington. They went west in pure amateur style, paying their own expenses. Grand exponents of the game they were. The team consisted of George Wright, one of the greatest shortstops that ever played; Williams, Bettrons, Fox, Studley, Smith and others. The playing of this team set the natives of the west wild with their artistic handling of the ball. Jake Schaefer's artistic manipulation of the ball was no more skillful than the way the members of this National team handled the ball and bat, to the amazement of the people of the west. The Washington players toured the west in grand style, defeating all comers until they made the Forest City team of Rockford, Ill., defeat at the hands of Rockford, who at that time had A. G. Spaulding in the box. Before the arrival of those Washington players in the west, the Chicago Excelsors had been the best team in amateur baseball. The Chicago Excelsors had defeated the Rockford team ten days before the Nationals' arrival, so all Chicago argued that Rockford could beat this great team from Washington and they could beat Rockford. The Nationals, of course, would be easy for the Chicago team.

Well, the crowd came to Dexter Park, and a big one it was. But the Nationals jumped in and beat the supposed invincible Chicago Excelsors by a score of 10 to 0. This defeat amazed the people of the west and northwest, as they could not reconcile the superiority of the game. They accused the Nationals of purposely losing the game to Rockford, so that they would get the Chicago Excelsors. Today we know that the Chicago Excelsors were the best team in the west and the west were only too eager to apologize. The Nationals were followed the next day by the three premier organizations of the east—the Athletics of Philadelphia, the Atlantics of Brooklyn and the Union of Morrisania. The aim of these three wild, woolly cousins in the west was to show their batting and catching the ball. The Athletics led on their roster Malone, McRee, Fisher, Al Ben, Baker, Berry, Cuthbert, Count Sanderford, Huelb, Bochtel. The Atlantics of Brooklyn were Ferguson, Dick, Pierce, Chas. Smith, Jack Chapman, Crane, McDonald and Tom Platt. The Union of Morrisania held in their Geo. Wright. The men enumerated were a combination of gentlemen and base ball players that were the pioneers and exponents of the game in the west. The next year, 1869, came the first clean-cut "red" team, the famous Cincinnati Red Stockings. With this team began all that is commendable in professional base ball, namely, discipline and team work. You will find once in a while today a few players or fans who are basking in the sunshine of conceit and ignorance say that in those days they did not know how to play for battles. Although a few small boys, I remember having seen at that time Harry Wright and Andy Leonard, who were respectively left and center fielders of the Reds, pull in and pull out, pull west and pull east for this and that kind of a batter while playing and that great organization, I have seen some ball players right in our own day, and not 150 days off, with no dense brain that you could not find a bright base ball idea through their heads.

The Shakespeare of Base Ball.
Hugh Fullerton in Chicago Tribune.
Joe Campbell of Washington really was the Shakespeare of base ball. He wrote classics, and probably was the best story writer of the "Jem Mace told the writer" school that ever happened. He would

CAREER OF THE KING OF THE RINGERS.

Special Dispatch to The Star.
CHICAGO, January 27.—Trotting circles are stirred again over the king of the ringers, Fred Wilton, it being reported that he is being prepared under a new name to invade the west again the coming season.

Fred Wilton began his turf career honestly, but after the first crooked step seemed fated to fall into dishonest hands. Fred Wilton (2094) is a bay pacer gelding by Wilton and made his record in 1900. He started in 1898 as a two-year-old and in 1899 made a record of 2:25 1/4. His wayward career began in 1901 at Rockford, Ohio, in the 2:20 pace at St. Mary's, where he was not in the money. He next started at Bradford, Pa., in the 2:25 pace and won. His best time was 2:17 3/4. Then he won the 2:22 pace at St. Mary's and next he got third money in the 2:17 pace at Thuisville. At Cleveland he failed to realize. At Bucyrus the next week he won second place in the 2:15 pace. This was his last appearance as "Orkus."

Horsemens knew of the work of Orkus, but at Bay City, Mich., in his next start, the description of the stranger that had taken so much corn money away from Ohio did not fit Frank Derby, by Charles Derby. His markings had been changed. After traveling very slowly in several races he won his race on the third day of his meeting and then made a rapid change to Warren, Ohio, appearing as Rock Wilton in the 2:20 pace. Again he took first money.

For a while Ohio was his stamping ground, appearing at each meet under a different name and with a new coat of paint. But the muscles beneath were the same. When Ohio got too warm for his expenses, the people of Chicago, Phila, Mass.—again as Frank Derby. The last place to which he was traced that year was to Elmira, N. Y. In 1902 he was traced in Wisconsin under the name of El Zaca. In 1903 he opened his third tour on July 4 at Fort Dodge, Iowa, as Wilkes Jim. He won the race, and next moved to Bangor, Me., where he was in the money. In 1904 the performer again made the west his stamping ground. He started at Kansas City as Avalanch, and appeared at Joplin, Mo., and Nevada, Mo. He was then shipped to Kingfisher, Okla., for the 2:15 pace. Labeled as "Colombine," by Combination, he won easily, but was protested and his earnings withheld. Subsequent investigation told the whole story. The dyestuff on his legs and body came off when soap and warm water were applied.

Last winter a horse represented as Fred Wilton was sold at auction at St. Louis, Mo., and was reported sold to a buyer from Windsor, Ont. Shortly afterward a report was circulated of the death of Fred Wilton at Windsor.

National Regatta at Springfield.
Special Dispatch to The Star.
NEW YORK, January 27.—The spring meeting of the executive committee of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen will be held in the New York Athletic Club Saturday evening, March 17. It is believed that the committee will decide to have the annual races on the Connecticut river at Springfield, Mass. The Springfield oarsmen will have the co-operation of Boston and Worcester, and also have the argument that the regatta has not been held in the east since 1903.

FIRST BASEMEN I HAVE KNOWN

BY HUGH S. FULLERTON.

Long time ago we were riding somewhere on a train one day, which is definite enough for all purposes, when Dahlen, Fred Pfeiffer and I fell into a discussion as to which is the more important position on the infield, second base or shortstop. Of course there was nothing to the argument, as the importance is equal in all things except covering the bases, and it depends on which man is the better at getting the ball and touching the runners. If the shortstop is better he covers the bag, and his position becomes the more important. We were simply arguing to pass away the time, and kept it up steadily until Anson butted in with:

"What's the matter with first base being the key to the infield?"

"H—li!" said Griffith. "A first baseman ought to be made to pay to get into the grounds."

Griffith wasn't so far wrong, for you can count on the fingers of one hand the first basemen who have really done things in their position, and in many cases the first baseman is merely a stoutened bottle, a sort of pensioner kept on the list because he can hit. Once in a while there comes along a first baseman who turns tricks, who covers ground and makes combination plays to matter in what league, his pitchers have not he usually shines for a time.

Charley Comiskey was the first of the really great first basemen. He showed the possibilities of his position, and it is one of the odd things of the game that almost every first baseman Comiskey has developed has played more base ball around the bag than his rivals.

Comiskey played an extremely deep field, covered immense territory, cut off hundreds of right-field hits and trained his pitchers to matter in what league, his pitchers have not he usually shines for a time. Charley Comiskey was the first of the really great first basemen. He showed the possibilities of his position, and it is one of the odd things of the game that almost every first baseman Comiskey has developed has played more base ball around the bag than his rivals. Comiskey played an extremely deep field, covered immense territory, cut off hundreds of right-field hits and trained his pitchers to matter in what league, his pitchers have not he usually shines for a time. Charley Comiskey was the first of the really great first basemen. He showed the possibilities of his position, and it is one of the odd things of the game that almost every first baseman Comiskey has developed has played more base ball around the bag than his rivals.

WILL GO TO ATHENS

American Participants in the Olympic Games.

Special Dispatch to The Star.
NEW YORK, January 27.—To go to Greece and take part in the Olympian games there this year is the ambition of many American athletes. One event in particular is very open just now. It is the mile, and for it many candidates are sure to try for the position.

At this early date it is impossible to tell who will make up the team on account of possible refusals owing to business and college duties. The men most likely to be selected in the sprints are: C. L. Parsons, Olympic Club of San Francisco; Archie Hahn, Milwaukee Athletic Club; Willie Hogenesen, Chicago Athletic Association, and W. A. Shick of Harvard.

America can boast of a great quartet of 440-yard men in Hillman, New York Athletic Club; Hyman of Pennsylvania, Groman of Chicago and Waller of Wisconsin. The pick of the half-mile men are Lightbody of Chicago, Parsons of Yale, Valenline, New York Athletic Club, and Breitkreutz of Wisconsin.

In the longer runs there are Cohn, Sheppard and Sullivan, the Irish trio, with Hall of Yale and Rowe of Michigan.

The Field Men.
If the best American field men can be put into the game it is a foregone conclusion that the stars and stripes will wave triumphantly. Europe has no weight men so important as Sheridan, Irish-American Athletic Club; Rose and Coe of Michigan, Sheldon of Yale, Garrels of Michigan, Flanagan, Irish-American Athletic Club, and Mitchell, New York Athletic Club. Again, in the jumps the foreigners would suffer in comparison with Jones, New York Athletic Club; Mahoney, New York Athletic Club; Prinstein, Irish-American Athletic Club; Symonds of Princeton, Friend of Chicago, Serviss of Cornell, and Ewry, New York Athletic Club.

The question upon which hangs the whole success of the team in the Greek games is this: Can our crack athletes arrange their college and business duties so as to spare the six weeks necessary to make the trip to Athens? With this one cropper surmounted the success of the American team would be assured beyond the shadow of a doubt. The distance runs the Yankee team, in its full strength, would rule a strong favorite in every event on the card. It is expected that the committee will announce the names of the athletes selected within a few days and that the candidates will begin training about the 1st of March.

Among the coaches mentioned to accompany and advise the athletes are: Alonzo A. Stagg, University of Chicago; E. W. Hjerthberg of the Irish-American Athletic Club, A. F. Copland of the New York Athletic Club, and Keane Fitzpatrick of Michigan.

WRESTLING IN THE BIG COLLEGES.

Will Go to Athens

American Participants in the Olympic Games.

Special Dispatch to The Star.
NEW YORK, January 27.—Wrestling among college athletes has come along with great strength within a year, and now is a regular member of the family of minor sports at some of the more prominent of the eastern institutions. Cornell and West Point are the latest converts, and possibly West Point, and certainly Cornell, will be represented at the next intercollegiate championships.

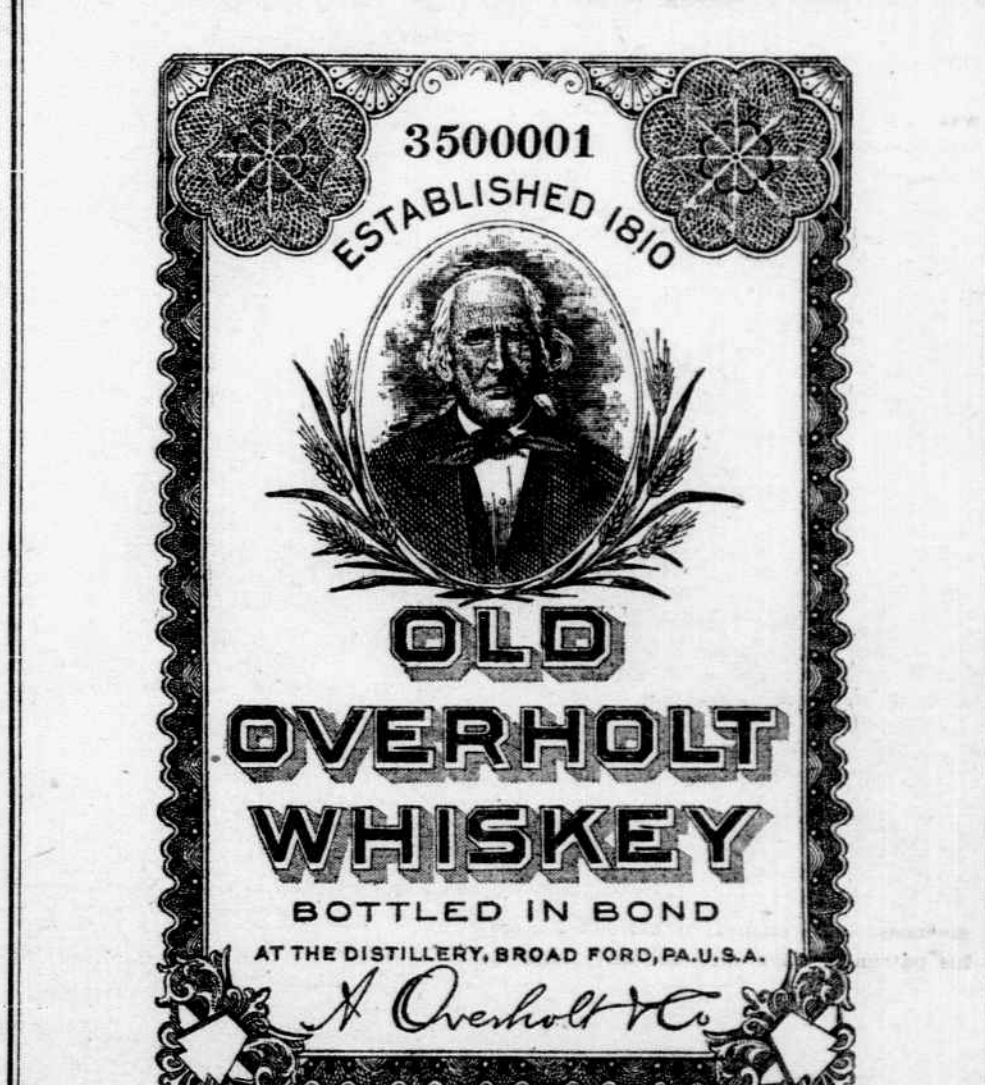
Pennsylvania, Princeton, Yale and Columbia were the entrants at the first annual intercollegiate championship meet held at the latter part of March. In the interval series of dual meets will probably be held between the various institutions. Columbia, Princeton, Pennsylvania and Yale, Cornell and Pennsylvania are preparing for a dual meet, which is to be held in Ithaca in February. Yale and Princeton will hold a dual meet, and so will Princeton and Pennsylvania.

Practice has begun in all the institutions that are to compete in the intercollegiate meet. This will be held at Columbia in the latter part of March. The interval series of dual meets will probably be held between the various institutions. Columbia, Princeton, Pennsylvania and Yale, Cornell and Pennsylvania are preparing for a dual meet, which is to be held in Ithaca in February. Yale and Princeton will hold a dual meet, and so will Princeton and Pennsylvania.

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Amateur Gold Championship.
Special Dispatch to The Star.
NEW YORK, January 27.—If golfers want to see the next amateur championship of the country decided over a course of recognized merit and standing they will have to assert themselves without delay. At present the single applicant for the event is the Baltimore Country Club, whose only claim for the right to conduct a tournament of such importance is the fact that most of 1904 to any city or otherwise direct its management.